

# A Photographic History of the Smith Family

Volume 3, Album 2

**Southard & Matelena**

This is the third volume of photograph “albums” tracing the Smith family of Trenton, New Jersey. The 11 albums of the first volume detailed the paternal side of the family focusing on the lives of Anna Maria Kutarnia and Joseph John Smith who settled in Trenton in 1928. The 7 albums of the second volume followed the family of Valentine “Billy” Smith from Trenton with his wife Alberta to Florida with wives Dale and Joan. The pictorial story of the family continues with the third volume which reveals the maternal side of the family through photographs.

Album	Subject	Years
1	Italians	1780 – 1990
<b>2</b>	<b>Italian-Americans</b>	<b>1890 – 1940</b>
3	Old World English, Irish, and Dutch	1320 – 1670
4	West Meets East	1640 – 1960
5	Dorothy R. Southard & Albert J. Matelena	1896 – 1980

Dr. Brian A. Smith ©2021

# A Photographic History

## of the

## Smith Family

### Volume 1:

<b>Anna Marie Kutarnia &amp; Joseph John Smith</b>		
Album 1	The road to Trenton	1886 – 1927
Album 2	Pre-war years in Trenton	1927 – 1939
Album 3	Trenton Central High School Yearbook	1931 – 1942
Album 4	Weddings	1937 – 1948
Album 5	Serving the country	1941 – 1945
Album 6	Trenton	1940 – 1959
Album 7	Christmas Greetings	1941 – 1960
Album 8	Moving on from Trenton	1960 – 1989
Album 9	Smith Cousins Reunion	July 1987
Album 10	Smith Cousins Reunion	July 1995
Album 11	The next generation	1990 – 2019

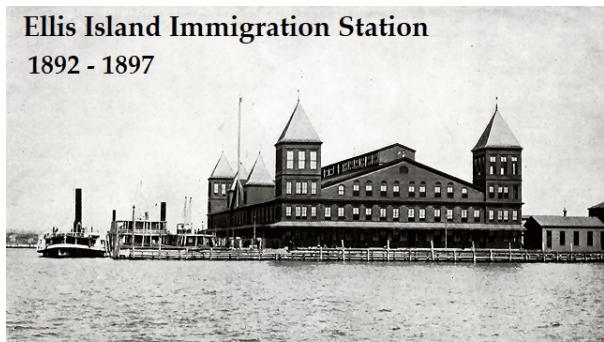
### Volume 2:

<b>Albert Jean Matelena &amp; Valentine William Smith</b>		
Album 1	Saint Mary's Cathedral, Trenton to Hamilton	1950s
Album 2	The suburban dream in DeCou Village	1960s
Album 3	Formal portraits and school photos	1961 – 2020
Album 4	Hamilton Township	1970s
Album 5	Jupiter, Florida	1980s
Album 6	The next hundred years begins	1990s
Album 7	The Next Generation	21 <sup>st</sup> century

### Volume 3:

<b>Dorothy Ruth Southard &amp; Albert Joseph Matelena</b>		
Album 1	Italians	1780 – 1990
Album 2	Italian-Americans	1890 – 1940
Album 3	Old World English, Irish, and Dutch	1320 – 1670
Album 4	West Meets East	1640 – 1960
Album 5	Dorothy R. Southard & Albert J. Matelena	1896 – 1980

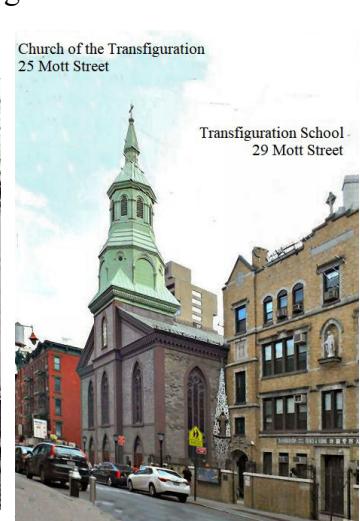
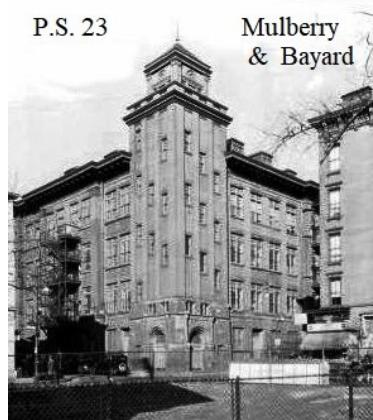
The Matelena family sailed from Naples on the *SS California*, arriving at Ellis Island on 5 January 1893.



First home: 66 Bayard Street



Transfiguration Church & School



Little Italy



Moved to 417 East 114<sup>th</sup> Street in *Italian Harlem* by 1895.

Joseph was working as a motorman in that year.



8th Street Trolley (1895)



Attended Mount Carmel Church on East 116th Street



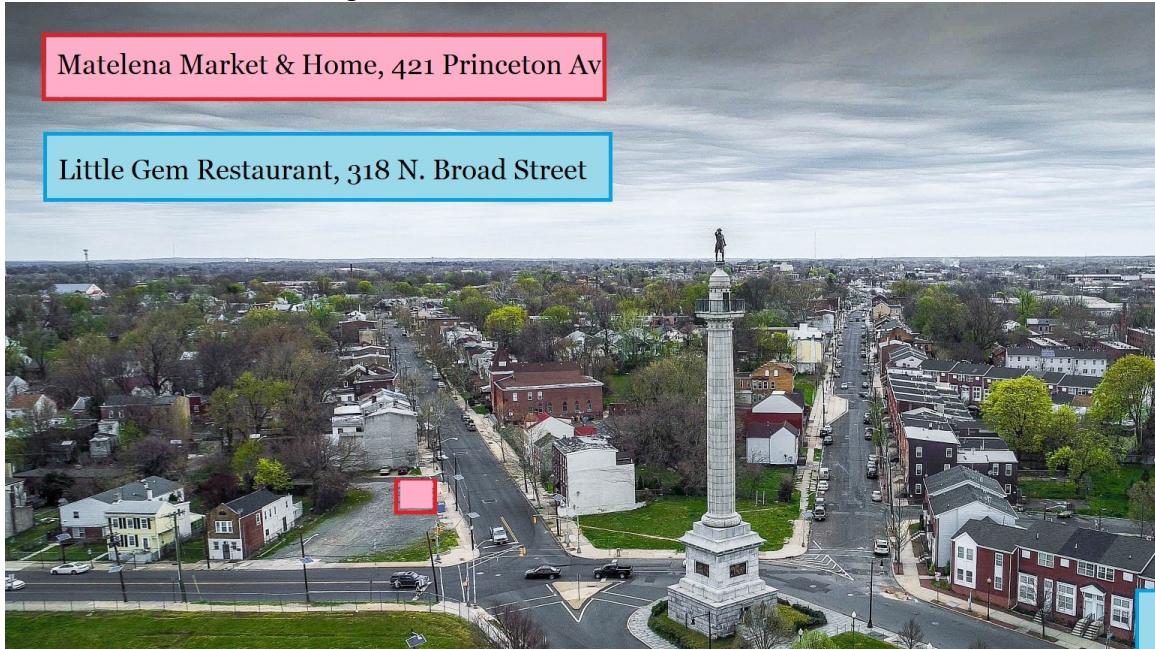
PS 85 was most likely the school they used.

By 1900 they moved to 2199 First Avenue. Their last child, John, was born here in October.



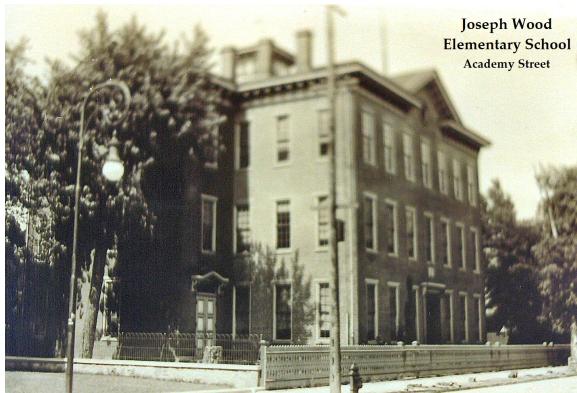
The family moved to Trenton at the end of 1901, following the marriage of Rafaele Acolia, daughter of their friends, to a man from Trenton named Vincent Carevello.

Trenton's first Italian section was located around the Battle Monument; the second Italian section was in *North Trenton* north of Olden Avenue along Brunswick Avenue near McKinley/Helene Fuld Hospital; the third Italian section was the well-known and fondly remembered Chambersburg area.



They ran an Italian produce market, living above the market, first at 419 Princeton before moving to the adjacent building at 421. Next to them on the corner at 423 was the Acolia Barber shop with living quarters on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.





Wood Elementary on Academy Street (where the Trenton Public Library now stands) was the elementary school used by John Matelena.



The others went to Saint Mary of the Assumption's School on Bank Street behind the Cathedral on Warren Street.

13-15 Fountain Street, 3 short blocks north of the produce market.



The left semi-detached is #13 and it stood for many more years than #15. Albert Matelena lived in #13 in 1922 and his brother John in 1925. Julia Matelena lived in #15 in 1924 and her brother Frank in 1928-29.

Frank Matelena's son  
27 April 1924, Trenton Times

**Joe's a Straight Shooter**



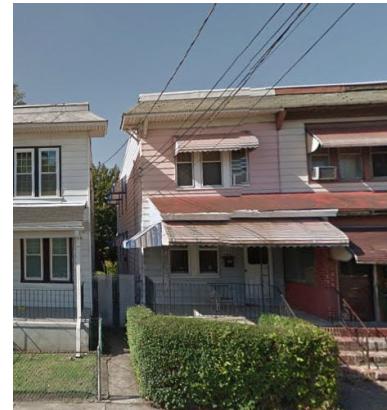
**Joseph Matelena**  
Photo by Raw.

This is Joe, the Big Shot at the Cathedral School. He proved it by out-shooting all comers and winning the first parochial school title in the Trenton Times championship. At 11, Joe's eye and aim were more accurate than any of the "big-fellas" even.

Only known photo Joseph & Mary Matelena, c1920



Several family members lived on Vine Street (*l to r*) #s 42, 108, 106 & 121, several blocks north of the market



Joseph Acolia lived with sister Etta at #106 (*r*) in 1930  
 Etta & Anthony Iero lived at #42 in 1922, #108 (*l*) in 1927 & #106 in 1929-30.      Tony Acolia at #121 in 1929

Katie Matelena married Joseph Acolia and lived at #8 Vine Street (*not pictured*) in the 1920s. Their daughter Etta married Anthony Iero and lived in the 3 houses on the left; son Tony (*below*) lived in the 4<sup>th</sup>. In 1926 the Iero's lived at 671 Southard Street (*below*).

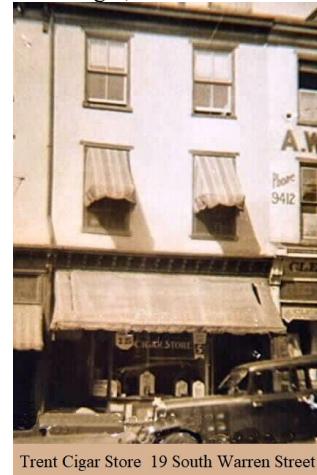


Antonio married Mamie Matelena.

In 1932 Frank Matelena lived at 232 N Warren and in 1935 his mother Mary worked at Trent Cigar, 19 South Warren.



Trenton Police listed Mary Matelena as a bookie who operated from the Trent Cigar Store in the early and mid-1930s.



Trent Cigar Store 19 South Warren Street

818 (r) & 820 (l) Brunswick Ave: home for daughters of Katie & Joe Acolia.



Florence Acolia & Nick Sebasto lived at #820 in 1938.

Rae Acolia & Nick Lauterio lived at #820 in 1940, #818 in 1968 – 1983

Joseph Acolia at 4 Chase Court, c1940.  
Son of Katie & Joe Acolia.

He & wife Lena at Riverview Cemetery in Trenton, NJ.



AUGUST 4, 1940 - SUNDAY TIMES

On Guard  
This fine character study won the Class B prize for Warren Kruse, of 121 Mary Street. The life saver is Andrew Gropp, of White Horse Avenue.

Andy Gropp married Gladys Matelena, daughter of Joseph & Mary's youngest child, John & his wife Josephine.



Circa 1940



Maria Concetta Sacco (1861 - 1943), known as Mary Matelena

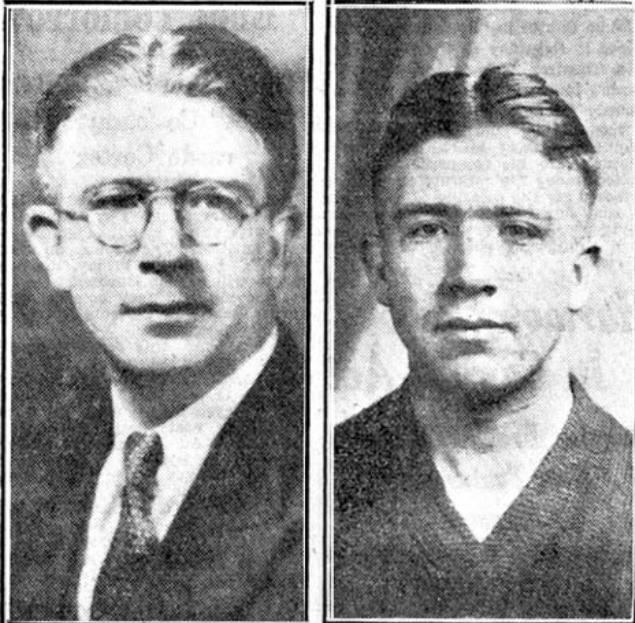


Joseph & Mary are buried in  
Saint Mary's Cemetery, Hamilton Township.

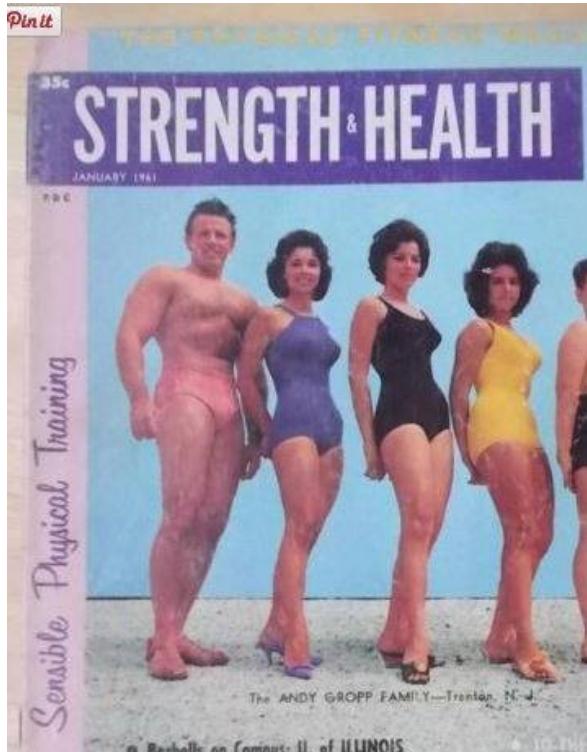


January 17, 1934 - Trenton Times

## Today and Yesterday



Andrew Gropp, Jr., of White Horse, is the same "Drew" Gropp who helped Trenton High's football team win the State championship back in 1913. Later, he scintillated as a St. Mary's halfback in several of the epic St. John's-St. Mary's Thanksgiving Day grid clashes here. He also played basketball, performing with his home town White Horse quintet some 16 years ago. He now resides at 46 White Horse Avenue.



Albert Acolia (1923 - 2005)  
335<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division &  
448<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Battalion  
13<sup>th</sup> child of Katie & Joe Acolia  
Married Joyce O'Harrow 14 Aug '48  
Brown's Mills Courthouse  
3 daughters



January 1961 "America's Fittest Family"  
Andy & Gladys (Matelena) Gropp,  
daughter of John & Josephine;  
and their children Dru, Donna, & Ron.

1943

Julia (b. 1893), daughter of Joseph & Mary Matelena.  
Married (1) Sam dePhillips & (2) Tony Ferraro  
3 children: Fred, Marie (Melchiando) & Dolly (Furman)



*(children are unknown but too young to be hers)*

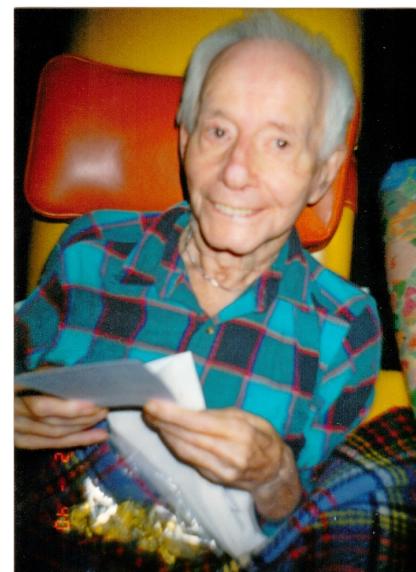
ca1960



1970s: *"Tony, Julia, & Acolia"* thought to be:  
Joyce O'Harrow (1930 – 1992), wife of Albert Acolia  
Anthony (1910 – 1997) & Julia (1912 – 1997),  
children of Katie & Joe Acolia, and sibling of Albert



Summer  
1994



Josephine Yaccarino (1902 – 1995)  
& John Matelena (1901 – 1997)